

Feb 3, 2005

Supportive Housing Grant Awards

Local agencies serving the homeless were awarded \$2,002,045 in federal grants on January 27, 2005. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Awards "Continuum of Care" grants through a competitive process. The grants provide permanent and transitional housing as well as job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and child care.

Lincoln's Continuum of Care grant received the highest score among all Continuum's in Nebraska and Iowa. This high score assisted Lincoln substance abuse and mental health agency, CenterPointe, to obtain a Permanent Housing Bonus. The bonus, which will provide more than \$500,000 in funds over a three-year cycle, will enable CenterPointe to provide housing and supportive services for an additional 30 homeless individuals.

A brief overview of the Continuum of Care and summaries of each recipient and program are listed below.

Overview

The Continuum of Care consists of nonprofit homeless service providers and other homeless service stakeholders in the community. In the past, HUD required agencies to apply individually for homeless service funds. Since 1996, HUD has required a "community-wide" application that involves all service providers along the "Continuum" of homeless services, who ideally help homeless people move along a continuum, from homelessness on the streets - to emergency shelter - to transitional housing - and eventually, into permanent housing.

The Continuum of Care meets monthly, with primary goals of performing an annual homeless count, conducting a yearly peer review process, strengthening communication and networking among homeless service providers, the completion of the Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Grant.

The Urban Development Department serves as the lead entity in the development of the Supportive Housing Grant. The Continuum ranks and prioritizes each applicant, and collaborates on the Exhibit 1 portion of the grant, which provides a "snapshot" of the local homeless situation in Lincoln. This includes an analysis of the homeless population, services provided, capacity, gaps in services, and strategies to address gaps in services.

Agencies applying for these funds complete a supplementary application that is specific to their agency. The agency applications are then combined with the Exhibit 1. These documents are scored together, and comprise Lincoln's Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Grant.

Project Summaries

1. CenterPointe: Permanent Housing Program

The Permanent Housing Project (PHP) will utilize HUD's Supportive Housing Bonus to secure funding for 30 units of permanent housing. The target population for this project will be unaccompanied adults (19+) with substance abuse or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disabilities. Collaborative efforts with other providers will be encouraged, and special consideration will be given to chronically homeless, and individuals completing residential treatment or transitional housing programs. Currently, Lincoln has no permanent supportive housing units.

2. Lincoln Action Program: Supportive Housing Program

This project is the City's largest transitional housing project for families with a capacity of 165. The unmet need in Lincoln for shelter for persons in Families with children has been identified as a High priority.

3. CenterPointe's GlidePATH Transitional Housing Project

This project has a capacity of 22 persons, and provides transitional housing and supportive services to dually diagnosed individuals. The project addresses the community need identified for services to the seriously mentally ill and chronic substance abuse subpopulations.

4. Cedars Youth Services New Futures

"New Futures" is a renewal project that provides transitional housing for homeless pregnant and parenting teenagers and their children. The program facilitates the movement of clients from homelessness to permanent housing within 24 months. New Futures is the only program in Lincoln that provides cooperative housing options for homeless pregnant and parenting teens preparing for independent living.

5. CenterPointe's Transitional Housing Project

CenterPointe's Transitional Housing project responds to an identified gap in the area of Transitional Housing for individuals. The project targets dually diagnosed individuals (mental health and substance abuse).

6. Saint Monica's Women in Transition

St. Monica's substance abuse/mental health housing program assists homeless or women at-risk of being homeless by providing treatment and services while in residential treatment. Renewal funds for the "Women in Transition" program will allow St. Monica's the funding needed to continue occupancy of two Therapeutic Communities that have a total of 29 beds.

7. Catholic Social Services Transitions Project

Catholic Social Services Transitions Project provides transitional housing, case management, mental health referrals, education and employment counseling, and other services for seven homeless families.